February 17, 1970

Dear Rich, Edelman

Sorry to take so long to write. I have a heavy schedule and have lost much time due to the heavy requirements of my job, car troubles in the dead of winter, and a bout with the flu. I received your card of Dec.17, and your letters of Jan. 8 and 20.

I do know Paul Tress. In my day he was dubbed Paul Trash for his unpredictable behavior.

I have heard the story about Killgallen saying she was going to crack the case from persons other than Harold and Penn, but the original source may have been the same. That makeup man has told others. I'm not sure that Bud sending a letter to Kollmar could do any more than hinder things. The idea of something elaborate like the CTIA being involved, as opposed to just a college student, might just scare him off. The Killgallen thing may well be a blind alley, but we won't know until we get to the end of it. Sylvia's enthusiasm for many projects has been low for quite some time and I wonder if she would have said the same thing 3 or 4 years ago. Most of the leads we check out have done little to solve the case, but it is pretty hard to predict the important ones before one follows them to their conclusion.

Lifton's interpretation of the Killgallen things is typically Lifton. It seems a bit far-fetched and is not very logical in my book. Reporters, while they may show enthusiasm for an upcoming column, rarely do too much bragging about sources, particularly if they are excited about them. Of course I agree that it is only theory that if she did make the statement it pertains to Ruby, but it would certainly be interested to see whatever she had, particularly given her promise to dig into the case. Bear in mind that she must have gotten something from Ruby through her own skill, the privacy factor, and the fact that Ruby, judging from his testimony, was in a talking mood.

Sylvia is wrong about the typescripts of the testimony being unavailable. Sylvia knows little about the archives and here is a good example. I was certain that she knew that these things were available. Sylvia's attempts to get documents were likely all many years ago and things change there every year. If you still don't have Thornley's book when you get this letter let me know and I will get the exact address of the publisher and try to order it. It would be worthwhile to compare the book with his published testimony, and then compare the works with the typescript. The last task would probably be the easiest because any changes would be marked on the typescript. Comparison of the first two would take some time.

Agreed on Flammonde and Epstein's biases. Epstein is a terrible liar, and worse than Manchester (who is simply a very sick man) and Bishop

wip is in bad shape too. Agreed on Garrison. He caused much trouble through carelessness and irresponsibility, much of which was encouraged by people like Mark Lane, Mort Sahl, and a few he had working for him. That much was out of our control, and none of us knewthe height of it until afterthe Shaw trial. This, of course, as you point out, in no way changes what the media did, or the fact that some of the media did what they did because they were afraid that he was going to break it open.

Thanks for the Times clipping. Curry's book is of little value, but Harold has spotted some important things in it. It is not really worth having, although it is short and could be read in a short time.

Russell's statement followed much groundwork done by Harold. He is an old man, has lung cancer, and probably feels like clearing his name a bit.

New Classics House must still have copies, or at least should have sent you a letter. Has your check cleared the bank yet, or didn't you send one. They publish mostly girlie magazines, etc.

The trial transcripts from New Orleans are being sold for $2500 apiece, or at least were going on sale for that price if the court reporting firm could find at least 5 buyers. (It is noteworthy that they told one of my people on the phone that the Ford Foundation had offered something like $50,000 if they could tape the trial.) You might write Harold about the possibility that he has gotten some from Garrison's office and could arrange for you to get xeroxes at cost. Court ### transcripts, unfortunately, are at least double spaced, and just a short piece of testimony would be many many pages, and thus cost much to xerox. But if you are very interested and would put them to some good use, perhaps you should ask Harold about it.

Thanks for Tress and the CIA connection. I may follow it if I have time. Tress is pretty irresponsible, or at least was, and the time involved and dubious source which would most likely result are probably not worth it. Info is no good unless you have some idea as to the qualifications of its source. Perhaps it is worth a try. Most people in left wing movements manage to run into "people with CIA connections," few of whom are legitimate, and if they are legitimate, I would have to assume that they are giving misinformation. Michigan State, of course, is a big CIA hangout.

Well, I hope that you passed your qualifier in French. I had to pass that one too to combine it with my 3 years of H.S. Spanish for qualification in 2 languages.

Keep up the good work and stay in touch.

Gary